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BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Date October 14, 1980

TO: Congressional Liaison
Department of State

ENCLOSURE FROM:
New Jersey constituents

RE: The U.S. policy toward South Korea and the recent sentencing of Kim Dae Jung

I forward the attached for your consideration and would appreciate receiving information in regard to this inquiry as soon as possible. Please return with the original correspondence.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Bradley

Bill Bradley
United States Senator

Please direct reply to:

Senator Bill Bradley
4104 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Lisa Berlin

(5)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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8 Renock Road
East Brunswick, N.J. 08816

September 17, 1980

Hon. Bill Bradley
Senator
4104 Dirksen Sen. Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bradley:

I am shocked and deeply saddened by the Korean military court's ruling on the Kim Dae Jung case. It is incredible that any sensible government would hand out a death sentence so lightly even though the prosecution failed to provide a single shred of evidence corroborating the charges of sedition.

In this eleventh hour of Mr. Kim's life, I am pleading you to help save Kim Dae Jung by speaking out for human rights in Korea. Your support for this cause will be greatly appreciated by all the concerned Korean-Americans of New Jersey.

As you know, Senator, tyrannies do not last very long. True to their old dictum, "no oppressive power lasts more than ten years," Korean people were able to defeat President Rhee's dictatorship in 1960, and General Park's in 1979. They may be temporarily terrorized into silence now, but it is a historic eventuality that General Chun, a modern day Macbeth, will share the fate of Macbeth, as his predecessor, Park Chung Hee, did. When that eventuality comes, Mr. Kim may be one of the few, if not the only, leaders who will be able to hole Korean nation together. Korea and United States will need him in the future more than they do now. Any person's life is a precious gift from God; Kim's life has an added significance to all of us. He must be saved by all means!

Sincerely yours,

Jong Keun You, Ph.D.

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105 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK NY 10016

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2122635654 MGM COMP NEW YORK NY 78 10-07 0436Z EST

SENATOR BILL BRADLEY
SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20510

THIS IS TO EXPRESS MY DISTRESS ABOUT THE SENTENCING OF KIM, DAE-JUNG
TO DEATH I ASK YOUR INTERVENTION IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE CLEMENCY
PLEASE TELEGRAM PRESIDENT CHUN, DOO HWAN, SEOUL, KOREA DIRECTLY HE HAS
THE POWER TO COMMUTE THIS SENTENCE
S GARRY ONIKI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE FOR CHURCH IN SOCIETY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

105 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK NY 10016

1613 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUM

I. Greenberg
111 Harper Terrace
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Sept 18, 1970

1970 SEP 22 AM 11:55

Senator Bill Bradley
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Bradley:

I read the New York Times on Sept. 17 & Sept. 18 and it is a sad day for freedom in South Korea & an embarrassing day for the United States.

The thought that baffles me is does the United States have any political clout in South Korea? Can't we withdraw our economic aid or military forces to prevent another General Park Chung Hee? Must we accept Gen. Chun Doo Hwan? Would you please inquire about this matter & forward me your opinion.

Sincerely
Irving Greenberg

Samurai Justice in Korea

Millions of people watching television this week need no further instruction in samurai justice. The loser's penalty in early 17th-century Japan was predictable and brutal — a quick thwack of the sword, a suddenly headless neck. In "Shogun," the NBC miniseries based on James Clavell's novel, the feudal savagery is rooted in Asian history which viewers may assume is mercifully past. It isn't. Samurai swords are still flashing in ostensibly civilized South Korea.

Last November, the old shogun, President Park Chung Hee, was assassinated by a trusted lieutenant. Now there is a new military overlord, Gen. Chun Doo Hwan. He may bear the more modern title of President. But he seems intent on governing in the feudal manner.

He had scores to settle, especially after a humiliating student uprising in Kwangju. That uprising was blamed on the seditious intrigues of South Korea's foremost democratic leader, Kim Dae Jung. But the evidence was tenuous; Mr. Kim and his co-defendants were already in jail when the Kwangju riots occurred. So Government prosecutors duly came up with another charge, that Mr. Kim was plotting subversion during a trip to Japan in 1973. But the evidence was tainted, since Mr. Kim had been kidnapped from Tokyo by Korean agents. The abduction outraged the Japanese, who obtained a promise that no evidence developed in Japan would be used against him. The promise was broken.

Yesterday, as expected, Mr. Kim was found guilty of sedition by a military tribunal after a semi-secret trial marred by charges of fraud and crude Government pressure. And, as feared, the sentence is death by hanging. Under President Chun's samurai code, there is seemingly no mercy for losers.

The comparison with feudal Japan may be offensive to Koreans; they are a proud people with bitter memories of their past as an imperial colony of the Japanese. Defenders of General Chun insist that Korea's judiciary is independent, and that appeals or executive clemency are still possible. They assert that a new constitution is being shaped that will give Koreans a more or less democratic system.

American policy-makers have been indulgent to a fault in accepting these assurances. While the Chun shogunate was assuming power, President Carter saw fit to remark that "the Koreans are not ready for democracy . . . according to their own judgment." Washington's tolerance has now been repaid with the Kim death sentence. Official pragmatism notwithstanding, that verdict is an affront to civilized opinion everywhere. A human rights policy that winks at samurai justice can hardly "ready" South Korea for democracy.